

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6 and substituted claims 7-12 therefore. Claims 7 and 10 are the independent claims. The remaining claims depend therefrom.

Briefly, the invention relates to a luggage item which includes a bag having a side wall. Note the side wall may be any wall of the bag. The side wall is composed, at least in part, of a transparent panel. Affixed on the outside of the transparent panel is an opaque flap which is attached to the side wall by means of a fastener about a portion of the periphery of the opaque flap. On the inside of the bag in opposition to and attached to the inside wall of the transparent panel is a pocket panel that defines a storage pocket within the interior of the bag enclosure. The pocket is designed to receive various items such as toiletries and the like. The pocket is accessible through a fastener opening, such as a zipper opening. Access to the interior of the bag enclosure is effected through a separate ingress opening. Access to the bag may then be effected by opening an ingress opening fastener, e.g. zipper. Thereafter, access to the contents of the interior pocket within the bag may be accessed through the ingress opening to the interior pocket. The opaque cover flap may be positioned over the transparent side wall panel to preclude visual observation of the contents. Also, as explained in the Summary of the Invention, the contents of the luggage bag enclosure, except in the pocket, may be inspected or observed by opening of the ingress fastener to the interior of the bag enclosure. However, to complete the inspection of the bag contents, it is not necessary to unzip or open the interior pocket inasmuch as the opaque cover flap may be opened to expose the transparent panel and reveal the contents of that pocket. It is to be noted that the cover flap includes a peripheral fastener. This is considered to be an

important aspect of the invention inasmuch as such bags are used for travel and in order to protect the contents of the bag and the integrity of the bag, such a peripheral fastener is deemed most desirable.

In any event, the Examiner rejected the claims principally on the reference to Sartena, U.S. Patent No. 6,637,485 taken alone or in combination with O'Reilly, U.S. Patent No. 3,807,537. Each of the reference patents shows a luggage type container having a transparent side wall with a cover panel that can be folded over the side wall to hide the contents of the bag. The cover panel is thus foldable away from the side wall to reveal the contents within the bag. The periphery of the panel is not attachable to the side wall.

Neither reference discloses nor teaches a number of the concepts now set forth in the claims as newly submitted. For example, the references do not teach the utilization of a peripheral fastener associated with the opaque cover flap. Further, the references do not teach the concept of using an interior panel attached to the side panel to define an interior storage pocket within the luggage item having accessibility through a separate fastener and further including a separate fastener for ingress to the bag enclosure, but not to the interior pocket. Thus, to inspect the interior pocket in a useful manner without removing the contents of the bag, one merely unfastens and lifts the exterior opaque flap. Inspection of the main bag enclosure can be accomplished by opening the main ingress fastener and by opening the opaque cover flap to determine what is stored behind the transparent panel and within the pocket in the bag enclosure. The prior art does not teach these features.

Reference was made by the Examiner to the teachings of O'Reilly, U.S. Patent No. 3,807,537 for its showing of a pocket assembly within a briefcase, wherein the pocket assembly 35 is made from transparent materials. First, it is noted that the pocket assembly is a separate removable element. The wall of the interior device is not attached to the interior of the side wall of the bag enclosure as claimed. Rather, it is a separate component. Second, it does not cover the transparent side panel. Third, the interior pocket assembly does not include a fastener to close the pocket.

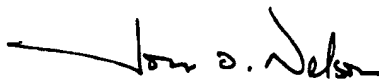
As a consequence, it is believed that the claims in their amended form are clearly distinguishable from the prior art. In this regard, applicants have reviewed the remaining prior art references and assert that none of these references teach the unique combination of features set forth in the claims now submitted. Those features include the use of an opaque cover flap with a peripheral fastener to cover a transparent panel which is constructed to be part of an interior pocket within a bag enclosure wherein that interior pocket has a separate ingress fastener.

With respect to the drawings, applicants intend to submit formal drawings. For purposes of further examination and for institution of a correction, it is noted that in Figure 2 the number 70 should be corrected to be "71". This element is the opaque panel 71 referenced at paragraph 18 of the specification. Referring to the specification and also to Figure 2, the transparent panel is labeled item number 66. The opaque inside panel (which may also be semi-opaque, or transparent), is labeled as item 71. This is the pocket wall on the interior of the bag. The zipper for the interior pocket is labeled 72. It is to be in phantom. The zipper for attaching the opaque

panel 68 or the flap 68 is labeled as zipper 70. Thus, it is believed all the features set forth in the claims as now amended are clearly shown in the drawing. Reconsideration of the drawing objection and passage of the claims to allowance is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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